

**International
Science Council**

Update to European members

ISC activities & challenges

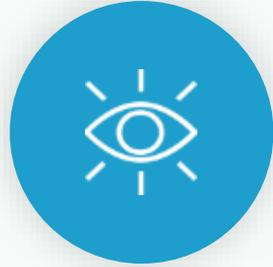
Dr Vanessa McBride | Science Director

21 November 2024



Outline

- 1 Governance update**
- 2 Strategic planning update**
- 3 Challenges**
- 4 Activity update**
- 5 Feedback**



OUR VISION

The vision of the council is
to advance science as a
global public good



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Council
is to be the *global voice for
science*

Our Members



142

National and Regional Scientific Organizations, including Academies and Research Councils



45

International Scientific Unions and Associations, across the natural and social sciences



70

International Affiliates, including organizations like The World Academy of Sciences, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, the Global Young Academy

We maintain **active partnerships** with:
Other international scientific bodies, including the InterAcademy Partnership, the World Federation of Engineering Organizations and the Global Research Council

iap



GLOBAL
RESEARCH
COUNCIL



Governance Update

New Statutes, Rules & Procedures adopted 8 March 2024

Process for nominating and electing new members of the Governing Board.

- Voting open to designated voting delegates 9 – 18 December
 - President-elect
 - Vice President for Freedom & Responsibility in Science
 - Vice President for Membership
 - 5 Ordinary members

ISC strategic priorities, 2025 - 2028

1. Create the conditions that allow science to thrive & contribute

2. Set and coordinate science agendas on issues of global importance

3. Guide evolution of science systems

4. Promote science diplomacy to advance the address global challenges and protect global commons

5. Articulate and translate scientific knowledge to inform decision-making

Planning update

Strategic Plan circulated to members for input.

Input being incorporated, for circulation with documents for General Assembly 2025 next week.

Feedback?

Challenges

- Avoiding fragmentation
- Sufficient funding and human resources to run initiatives, a tough funding climate for members themselves
- Double-edged sword of mobilizing external funding
- Managing change from the 2018 merger and expanded/revised mandate
- *Acting in concert with members?*

Highlights of 2024



Science in times of crisis

- Thought leadership
- Generated significant follow up across the broader community

council.science/publications/protecting-science-in-times-of-crisis/

PROTECTING SCIENCE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

How do we stop being reactive, and become more proactive?

CENTRE FOR SCIENCE FUTURES | International Science Council

unesco

COMMITTEE ON DATA
CODATA
INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

Article >

Launch of global consultation: Developing data policies for crisis facilitated by open science

UNESCO in partnership with the Committee on Data (CODATA) is launching a consultation to explore how the principles of open science could guide efficient policies for data sharing in times of crisis.



@SzepesiT/Shutterstock

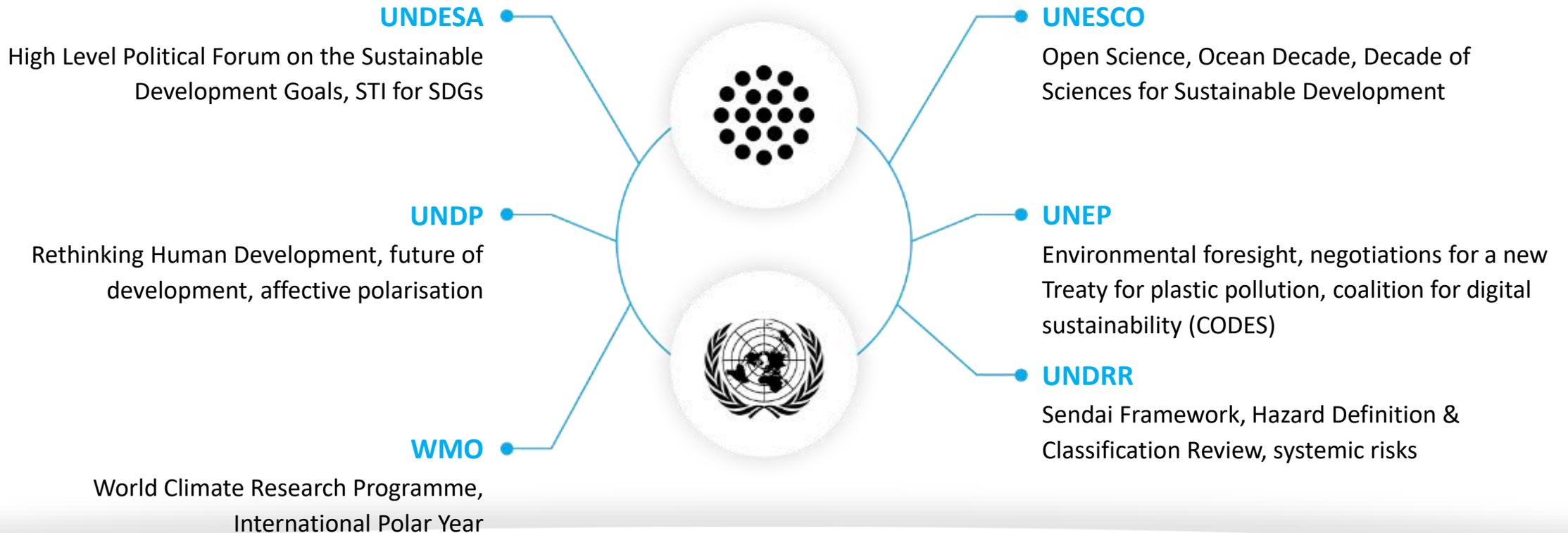
21 October 2024

IIE Grant to support mentorships of displaced scientists:

- Scientists from Scholars at Risk
- Mentors from ISC membership
- \$500k over 3 years
- Starting 2025

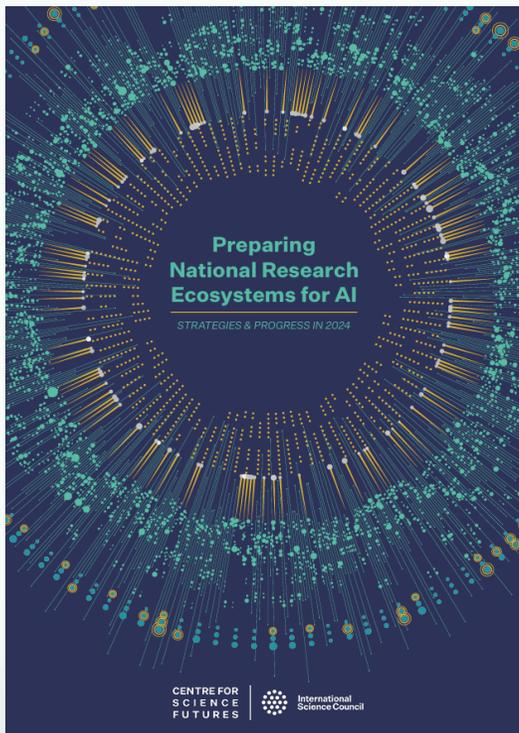
Embedding the ISC at the UN

- The ISC is a Lead Coordinator of the UN Major Group for Science and Technology with WFEO
- The ISC is part of the network supporting the UN Secretary-General Scientific Advisory Board.
- The ISC supports the Group of Friends on Science for Action convened by South Africa, India and Belgium
- The ISC works closely with a number of UN Secretariats/Agencies:

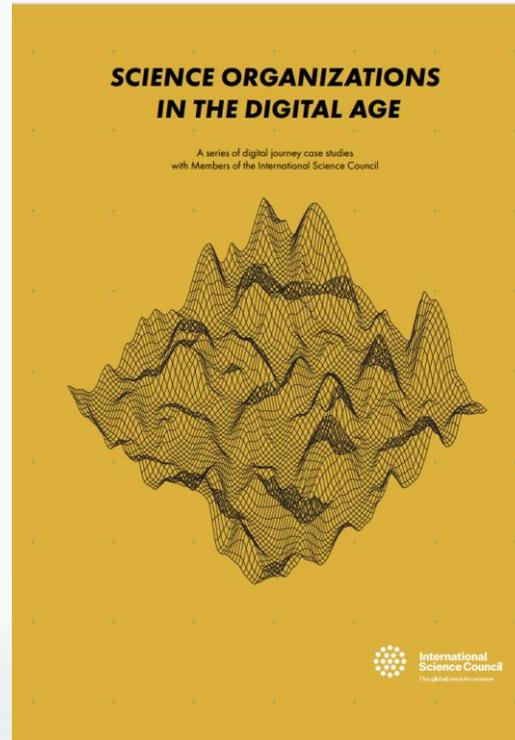


AI and digitalization in the science landscape

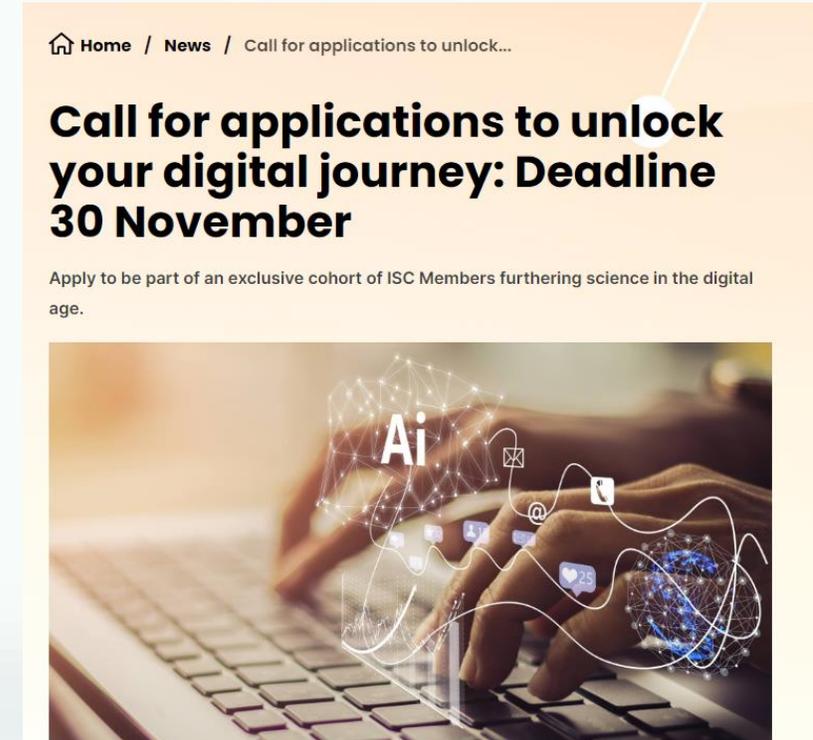
March 2024: 'Preparing National Research Ecosystems for AI: Strategies and progress in 2024'



April 2024: 'Science organizations in the digital age'



Nov 2024: Call open
['https://council.science/news/digital-journey/'](https://council.science/news/digital-journey/)



The right to science

International Science Council
The global voice for science

The International Science Council's interpretation of:
THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN AND BENEFIT FROM SCIENCE

The International Science Council believes that there is a **universal human right to participate in and enjoy the benefits of science**, and that it is a responsibility of governments to create and sustain the opportunities of citizens to use this right.

A RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN SCIENCE
this right presumes a right to **basic scientific literacy**, and a right to **scientific education**, training and mentoring.

- 1** A right to **participate in generating diverse forms of knowledge** through the study of natural and social phenomena using theoretical, observational, experimental, and analytical approaches to introduce and test existing and new models, conjectures, hypotheses and ideas **unconstrained by political agendas or belief systems**.
- 2** A right to **challenge established knowledge** about natural and social phenomena when generating and communicating new models, conjectures, hypotheses and ideas, and the uses to which this knowledge has been or may be put.
- 3** A right to **collaborate and engage in scientific dialogue** and research across national, political, regional and other boundaries.
- 4** A right to communicate both **positive and negative findings**.
- 5** A right to **form professional societies and associations**.
- 6** A right to **advocate for the responsible use of science**.

A RIGHT TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF SCIENCE

- 1** A right **not to be excluded** from the benefits of science on the basis of **unjust discrimination** based on race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, sex, gender identity, reproductive ability, sexual orientation, age, disability, political opinion, or religious belief.
- 2** A right to **equitably access information**, data, and other resources necessary to enhance scientific knowledge, teaching and research.
- 3** A right to **apply scientific knowledge** for technological developments for **the good of humanity and the planet**.

If you would like to learn more about the free and responsible practice of science, please visit:
council.science/the-right-to-science

council.science

- Thought leadership
- An unpacking of the 'right to science'
- Clear interfacing with open science, scientific publication, gender, and possibly 'Reclaiming Europe' inclusive practices of science etc.

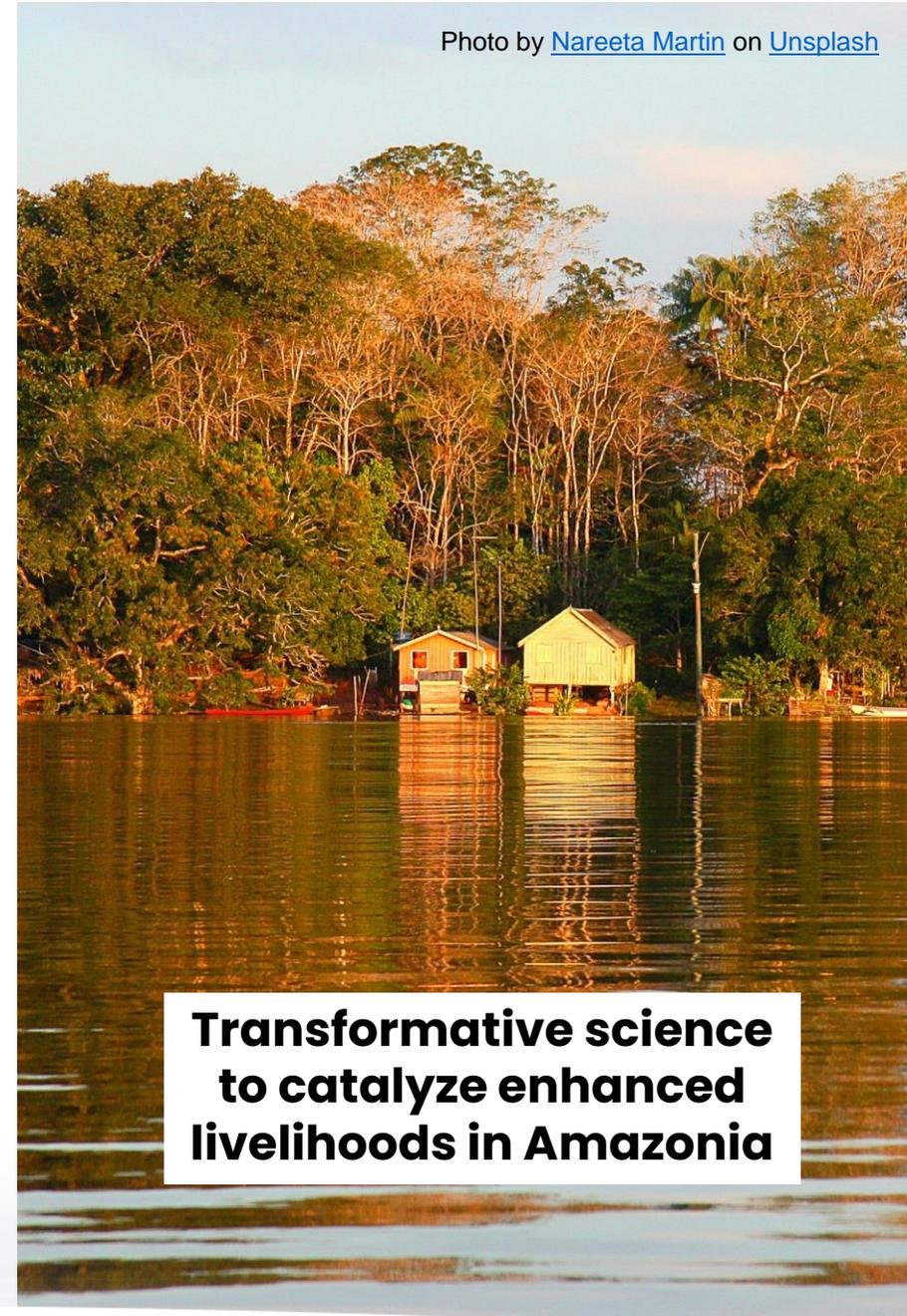


Science Missions for sustainability

Be part of the game-changing collective action that shapes the future of science and humanity.

- Call for Science Missions for sustainability in March 2024
- 250 expressions of interest
- Selection of 23 shortlisted expressions of interest
- Full bids received on 21 October 2024
- Full bids currently under review
- Engagement with funders (co-funding and/or matchmaking)

Adaptation to Climate Impacts on Energy Supply in Southern Africa: Green Energy Solutions for the Climate Emergency



**Transformative science
to catalyze enhanced
livelihoods in Amazonia**

Living labs for urban heat island mitigation

Based across India, Bangladesh & Thailand

To address the **threat of urban heat islands coupled with a warming climate.**

Aims to improve input from wide range of communities.

GeoAI technology + citizen science

PI from an NGO.

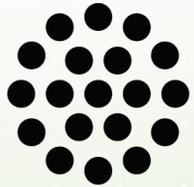
Science, policy, civil community & private sector



Photo by [Ahmed Hasan](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Looking to the future

- Priorities for the European community of ISC members?
- Challenges?
- Emerging scientific issues? E.g. AI?



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in [company/international-science-council](https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-science-council)

X [@ISC](https://twitter.com/ISC)

f [InternationalScience](https://www.facebook.com/InternationalScience)

Thank you!

Contact us at

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WP4 – STI INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS

To be firmed up in May 2025:

- production, use, storage and sharing of data
- impact of public-private partnerships on academic publishing
- new connectivity technologies for data-, knowledge-sharing and scientific collaboration in the Global South
- ?

Membership Update

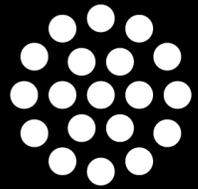
New Statutes, Rules & Procedures adopted 8 March 2024

Affiliated Bodies of the ISC are now also Category 4 members

Voting rights for category 3 membership

Dues working group to undertake revision in 2025

Encourage young academies, medical academies, social science academies to consider membership.



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Thank you!

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